Direct rail link from Delhi to Kandla Port

1216. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for direct rail link on BG line from Delhi to Kandla Port, *via* Ajmer and Palanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken in this regard, so far; and

(d) if not, by when the above line is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi to Palanpur is already on a direct BG line. Gauge conversion of Gandhidhan- Palanpur which will provide the desired linkage has been included in the budget and work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances for which action has been initiated.

(d) The line will become available in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Stopping subsidising PDS freights by the Railways

1217. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to stop subsidising PDS freights; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Commercial exploitation of-Railway surplus land

1218. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission to the Railways for commercial exploitation of surplus land, for modernisation of the Mumbai suburban rail network;

(b) whether this policy will apply to the entire rail network in the country; and

(c) what are the regulations governing this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved setting up of MRVC (Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation). The proposal, inter-alia, envisages commercial development, by the MRVC, of railway land and air-space in Mumbai for raising resources.

(b) The jurisdiction of MRVC is restricted to Mumbai Suburban area. However, it is the intention to extend commercial development of railway land/air-space to other parts of the country.

(c) The proposed MRVC (Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation) shall have equity participation from the Ministry of Railways (MOR) and Government of Maharashtra (GOM) in the ratio 51:49. The funds generated by commercial development shall be utilised in the ratio of 1:1:1 for rail projects in Mumbai, Maharashtra State and elsewhere in the country.